(c) and (d) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector with effect from 1-4-2002, the Oil Marketing Companies have freedom to choose locations for setting up retail outlets dealerships in various parts of the country, including remote areas in the State of Bihar and Jharkhand provided that the locations meet certain norms like commercial viability and non-encroachment of the existing dealerships.

Natural gas processing centres in Gujarat

4736. SHRI AHMED PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether natural gas is being processed for production of LPG at Vaghodia and Gandhar in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any plan to provide LPG through pipelines in the nearby areas of these processing Centres in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) GAIL (India) Ltd. is having two LPG processing plants at Vaghodia and Gandhar in Gujarat having a production capacity of 73,000 metric tonne (MT) and 2,50,000 MT per annum and a gas throughout capacity of 2.5 and 5.0 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD) respectively. The dispatch from both the plants are through road tankers. The storage capacity at Vaghodia is 950 MT and of Gandhar is 2,270 MT. The LPG production at Vaghodia during 2000-01 and 2001-02 was 75,980 MT and 78,380 MT respectively and of Gandhar during 2001-02 was 1,27,214 MT (being the 1st year of production).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Oil field near bassein gasfield off Mumbai

4737. SHRI R. P. GOENKA :
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has recently struck a major off-shore oil field near the Bassein gasfield off Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to integrate a number of recent small discoveries with the existing major facilities to make them commercially viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has recently found oil and gas leads in B-22 structure located about 15 kilometers west of Bassein field in Mumbai offshore.

(c) Exploration is a continuous process and the leads thus obtained from various discoveries are pursued to consolidate and integrate them with existing assets and produce hydrocarbons in a commercially viable manner.

Mixing of Naphtha with Petrol

†4738. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1319 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th March, 2003 and state :

(a) whether there is a ban on the mixing of Naphtha with Petrol in many places in other countries; and

(b) if so, the basis on which permission for mixing has been given by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Government is not aware of any ban on the mixing of Naphtha with Petrol in other countries.

(b) No permission has been given by Government for mixing of Naphtha with petrol.

Supply of Gas by British Petroleum

4739. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the British Petroleum has offered supply of gas to India at affordable prices of $ 3.00 per mmbtu for power plants;

(b) if so, whether the British Petroleum will be sourcing its supplies from Iran; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi